(ग) से (च) साधारणतया पति/पत्नी के नाम वाले टेलीफोन के लिये इस प्रकार की प्रतिभूति नहीं की जाती है । तथापि, कुछ विशेष परिस्थितियों में पति/पत्नी के नाम के टेलीफोन के व्यय की प्रतिभूति की जाती है बशर्ते कि सक्षम प्राधिकारी उसके समक्ष रखे गये उचित प्रमाण से संतुष्ट हो जाता है कि उक्त टेलीफोन इंडियन एम्बेसी इस के कार्य हेतु प्रयोग में लाया जा रहा है तथा पति/पत्नी को किसी अन्य स्रोत से इसके व्यय की प्रतिपूर्ति नहीं की जा रही है अथवा वह टेलीफोन किसी अन्य व्यापार अथवा व्यवसाय में प्रयोग नहीं किया जा रहा है ।

Rajasthani Food Festival in London

307. SHRI K. R. MALKANI: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION AND TOURISM be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that a Raasthani Food Festival was organised in London on 7th September, 1994 with the Minister as Chief Guest as reported in India Weekly, 16—22 September, 1994, London;

(b) whether it is also a fact that programme was conducted at the invitation of one Mr. Amin AG of Dangladesh, who had earlier been declared bankrupt;

(c) whether this programme was held in the notorious Soho area of London;

(d) whether the food served at this Rajasthani Food Festival was non-Rajasthani; and

(e) why the Minister and our High Commissioner in the U.K. attended this function?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION AND TOURISM (SHRI GHULAM NABI AZAD): (a) to (e) The Indian Restaurant, known as Red Fort Restaurant in London organised a six week Rajasthani Food Festival in September, 1994 in collaboration with Government of Rajasthan. It was supported by our High Commission in London. On 7-9-1994 a reception was held by the Restaurant to launch the Food Festival and the Minister for Civil Aviation and Tourism attended as the Chief Guest. The Department of Tourism has no knowledge of the alleged bankruptcy of Mr. Amin Ali.

The Red Fort Restaurant is located in Soho area of Central London where a large number of commercial and media offices are also located.

The purpose of organising this festival was to promote Rajasthani Food and thereby Tourism to Rajasthan. To give authenticity to the function, a cultural troupe and two cooks were deputed by the Government of Rajasthan to participate in the Festival. The Minister of Civil Aviation and Tourism and the High Commissioner of India in U.K. attended the function. The event was a part of an ongoing programme of promoting Indian tourist destinations.

New procedure for fare discount offered by foreign airlines

308. SHRI SURESH KALMADI: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION AND TOURISM be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Government have streamlined the procedure in allowing fare discount offered by foreign Airlines;

(b) if so, what are the details of the new procedure; and

(c) what would be the benefits accuring to the Indian travellers as a result thereof?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION AND TOURISM (SHRI GHULAM NABI AZAD): (a) and (b) Under the new guidelines issued by the Government special fares may be filed by 3rd/4th free-

dom carriers with DGCA, which will be approved within 48 hours of filing. These fares will be advertised in leading newspapers by Board of Airline Representatives — India. Other carriers would be entitled to match the approved fares of 3rd and 4th freedom carriers after notifying DGCA in writing.

(c) Air travellers would get the benefit of competitive fares.

Helicopter services in the country

309. SHRI K. RAHMAN KHAN: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION AND TOURISM be pleased to state:

(a) how many authorised Private Helicopter Service Operators are functioning in the country;

(b) whether Pawan Hans Corporation, which was established to provide Helicopter Services to public has stopped hiring helicopters to public ;

(c) if so, the reasons therefor; and

(d) whether Government are considering to popularise Helicopter services in the country so as to promote Tourism?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION AND TOURISM (SHRI GHULAM NABI AZAD): (a) There are presently 5 private operators having helicopters endorsed in their permits.

(b) No, Sir.

(c) Does not arise.

(d) Helicopter operators are free to operate to place of tourist interest.

Introduction of helicopter Service by ITDC

310. SHRI K. RAHMAN KHAN: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION AND TOURISM be pleased to state:

(a) whether the I.T.D.C. in considering to introduce Helicopter service to promote tourism in the country;

(b) if not, whether such a proposal is feasible in view of the absence of Air routes or Air strip in most of the tourist stops in the country; and

(c) whether Government would consider examining the feasibility of such proposal?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION AND TOURISM (SHRI GHULAM NABI AZAD): (a) to (c) Presently there is no proposal under consideration of ITDC for introducing a helicopter service to promote tourism in the country. The Corporation has also not carried out any feasibility study for such a proposal.

Utilisation of bilateral air traffic entitlement

311. SHRI KRISHNA KUMAR BIRLA: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION AND TOURISM be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that air traffic entitlement remains substantially unutilised;

(b) if so, what percentage of bilateral air traffic entitlement is currently being utilised and what are the reasons for its under untilisation:

(c) what is the annual estimated loss of revenue due to under utilisation of bilateral entitlement; and

(d) wrat steps are contemplated by Government in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION AND TOURISM (SHRI GHULAM NABI AZAD): (a) to (c) Bilateral entitlements of Indian and foreign carriers are generally equal on country pair basis. India carriers i.e. Air India and Indian Air-